

## BOOK REVIEWS

**A RADIOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION IN RHEUMATOLOGY.** Edited by DM Forrester and JC Brown. Clinics in Rheumatic Disease, Vol 19, No 2. (Pp vii + 289-488. £11.75). London: Saunders, 1983.

IT is a great pleasure to be able unreservedly to recommend any book—and this is one of those occasions. To the physician or rheumatologist this small volume outlines precisely what can be expected from the various modes of imaging on patients suffering from bone or joint disease. To the radiologist it presents clearly the requirements of the clinician.

The chapters are well chosen. The illustrations are of excellent quality. A good balance is struck between conventional and more modern techniques, and it is of interest that the authors included computed tomography, ultrasound and nuclear magnetic resonance.

I strongly recommend this book to any clinician who is in the habit of writing X-ray requests for skeletal imaging, and to all radiologists who have to report on such requests. EMMcl

**IMMUNOLOGICAL INTERVENTION IN MEDICINE.** Edited by JF Mowbray. Clinics in Immunology and Allergy, Vol 3, No 2. (Pp vii + 205-361, Illustrated. £11.75). London: Saunders, 1983.

THE Editor states in his foreword that “in the sixties and early seventies enormous gains were made in our knowledge of basic immunological mechanisms, and that unfortunately, clinical use of this scientific foundation has been slow to appear.”

The book with nine short chapters, written by different specialists, presents the scientific background of various methods of treatment employed to alter immunological mechanisms, together with practical applications of each method. The balance between these two aspects is good, and all authors give fair comments of the shortcomings of treatment methods together with suggestions for future research and development. Immunological treatments other than standard immunosuppression used for many years, are discussed, and these include marrow and thymus replacement in the repair of immunodeficiency, the clinical use of cyclosporin A, the clinical use of transfer factor and the management of infection in the immunocompromised host.

Recently much interest has been shown in illness associated with altered immunoregulation, and this book will undoubtedly assist doctors in the management of patients with these illnesses. MH

**COMMUNITY HEALTH, PREVENTIVE MEDICINE AND SOCIAL SERVICES.** By JB Meredith Davies. Fifth Edition. (Pp x + 485. £7.95). London: Baillière Tindall, 1983.

THIS book first appeared in 1966 when it was one of the few undergraduate texts available in preventive medicine. There are now a number of books on the market. Dr Davies has made his latest edition larger, up-to-date and has included additional tables and diagrams. There are three main sections covering community health and preventive medicine, secondly community health and social services and thirdly, social services. This is one of the best books on community health available and is recommended as very suitable for medical undergraduates and other health workers. HE

**BIOLOGY AND PATHOLOGY OF THE VESSEL WALL.** Edited by Neville Woolf. (Pp 351. Illustrated. £17.50). Eastbourne and New York: Praeger, 1983.

THIS book is based on a symposium organised by the Royal College of Pathologists to discuss current advances in knowledge of blood vessel wall metabolism and the various cellular and biochemical interactions at the blood/vessel wall interface which appear important in the evolution of vascular disease. The potential atherogenic roles of endothelial damage, platelet adherence, release of vasoactive agents, smooth muscle proliferation and lipid deposition are comprehensively explored. Other important topics include the pathology of the transplanted blood vessel, diabetic microvascular disease and the effects of hypertension.

For those interested in vascular research, this book should provide an excellent overview of the various areas worthy of further investigation. Each chapter is written by experts in that field. A high standard is maintained throughout and a comprehensive and up-to-date bibliography is included. JDB